

Trends in Poverty and Median Income in Connecticut: Summary of 2014 American Community Survey Census Data

September 2015

New data from the American Community Survey provide insight into poverty and median household income estimates in Connecticut and across the nation.

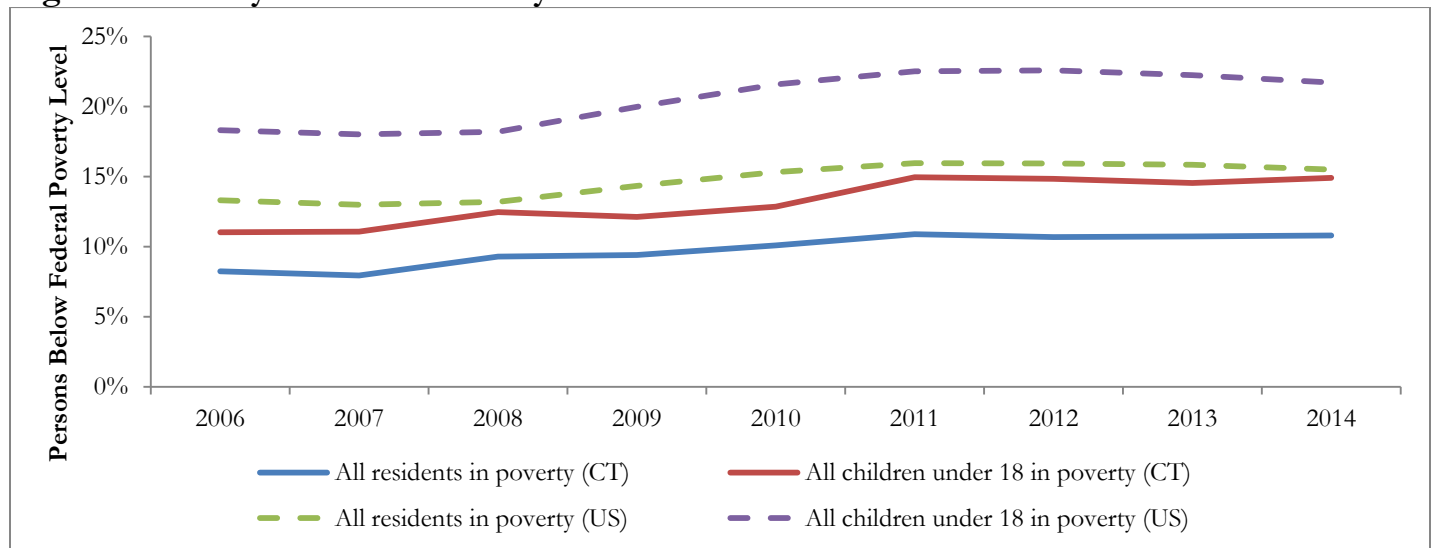
Statistically significant findings in poverty and median household income data for 2014¹ include:

- The rates of both overall poverty and child poverty did not change in Connecticut from 2013 to 2014. In contrast, the poverty and child poverty rates fell significantly in the United States over the same time period.
- Poverty in Connecticut continued to show disparity by race/ethnicity in 2014. Poverty rates for black residents (20.8%) and Hispanic residents (26.5%) were higher than that of white² residents (6.1%). The disparity was even greater for children, with rates higher for black children (30.5%) and Hispanic children (33.5%) than white children (5.6%)
- Poverty in Connecticut’s large cities and counties persisted from in 2014, with hardly any change from 2013.
- Connecticut did not see a significant change in median household income from 2010 to 2014; however, both Connecticut and the Nation saw a significant increase in median household income from 2013 to 2014.

The data below show statistically significant trends in poverty as follows:

- All poverty indicators have risen from 2006 to 2014 in the Nation, and all have fallen from 2013 to 2014.
- While all poverty indicators rose from 2006 to 2014, Connecticut saw no significant change in poverty indicators from 2013 to 2014.

Figure 1: Poverty and Child Poverty Estimates in Connecticut and the Nation



Source: U.S. Census ACS Sept. 17, 2015 release analyzed by Connecticut Voices for Children. In 2014 the U.S. Census Poverty Threshold was \$24,008 for a family of four.

¹ Important technical notes on usage: *Unless noted otherwise, all bulleted findings are statistically significant.* All data are from the Sept. 17, 2015 ACS release, with analyses of statistical significance by Connecticut Voices for Children. A change in Census estimates is called “statistically significant” if it is unlikely to have occurred by chance; all statistically significant findings are noted following each table. *Unless a change in Census estimates over time is statistically significant, it would not be accurate to say, for example, that uninsured rates have increased or declined.* (Further technical details are provided at the end of this fact sheet.)

² “White” refers to non-Hispanic white residents; Black and Hispanic residents are not mutually exclusive Census categories.

Table 1: Poverty Estimates in the Nation

Poverty Indicator	2006	2013	2014
Residents with income less than Federal Poverty Level	13.3% (39.8 million)	15.8% (48.8 million)	15.5% (48.2 million)
All children under 18 below Federal Poverty Level	18.3% (13.5 million)	22.2% (16.1 million)	21.7% (15.7 million)
Related children under 18 below Federal Poverty Level	17.9% (12.9 million)	21.9% (15.8 million)	21.3% (15.4 million)
All children with income under 200% Federal Poverty Level	39.8% (28.8 million)	44.6% (32.3 million)	44.1% (31.9 million)
Families with income below Federal Poverty Level	9.8% (7.3 million)	11.6% (8.9 million)	11.3% (8.7 million)

Source: U.S. Census ACS Sept. 17, 2015 release analyzed by Connecticut Voices for Children. In 2014 the U.S. Census Poverty Threshold was \$24,008 for a family of four. Note: 2006 selected because that year was the first year all five indicators were available from the ACS

Table 2: Poverty Estimates in Connecticut

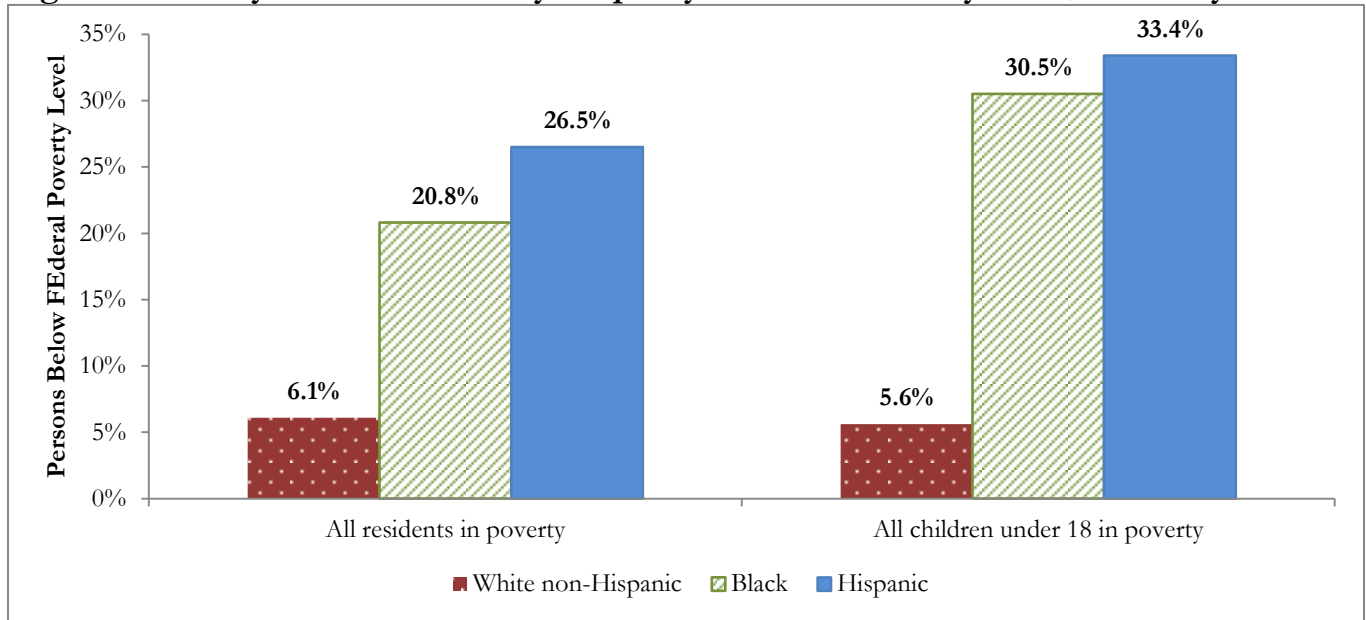
Poverty Indicator	2006	2013	2014
Residents with income less than Federal Poverty Level	8.3% (280,000)	10.7% (374,000)	10.8% (375,000)
All children under 18 below Federal Poverty Level	11.0% (89,000)	14.5% (113,000)	14.9% (114,000)
Related children under 18 below Federal Poverty Level	11.1% (91,000)	14.3% (110,000)	14.4% (110,000)
All children with income under 200% Federal Poverty Level	25.4% (204,000)	30.5% (236,000)	31.8% (243,000)
Families with income below Federal Poverty Level	5.9% (52,000)	7.6% (68,000)	7.5% (67,000)

Source: U.S. Census ACS Sept. 17, 2015 release analyzed by Connecticut Voices for Children. In 2014 the U.S. Census Poverty Threshold was \$24,008 for a family of four. Note: 2006 selected because that year was the first year all five indicators were available from the ACS.

The data below show that rates of overall and child poverty in Connecticut differ by race and ethnicity:

- Black and Hispanic residents saw significantly higher poverty rates (20.8% and 26.5%, respectively) than white³ residents (6.1%) in 2014.
- The disparity was even greater, with rates higher for black children (30.5%) and Hispanic children (33.5%) than white⁴ children (5.6%) in 2014.

Figure 2: Poverty and Child Poverty Disparity in Connecticut by Race/Ethnicity in 2014



Source: U.S. Census ACS Sept. 17, 2015 release analyzed by Connecticut Voices for Children. In 2014 the U.S. Census Poverty Threshold was \$24,008 for a family of four. Note: Hispanic and black are not mutually exclusive Census categories; i.e., some black residents may be Hispanic. The poverty rate for all residents was 10.8%, and the poverty rate for all children was 14.9%.

Table 3: Poverty Estimates by Race/Ethnicity in Connecticut in 2014

Poverty Indicator	White non-Hispanic	Black	Hispanic
Residents with income less than Federal Poverty Level	6.1% (146,000)	20.8% (74,000)	26.5% (139,000)
All children under 18 below Federal Poverty Level	5.6% (25,000)	30.5% (29,000)	33.4% (56,000)

Source: U.S. Census ACS Sept. 17, 2015 release analyzed by Connecticut Voices for Children In 2014 the U.S. Census Poverty Threshold was \$24,008 for a family of four. Note: Hispanic and black are not mutually exclusive Census categories; i.e., some black residents may be Hispanic.

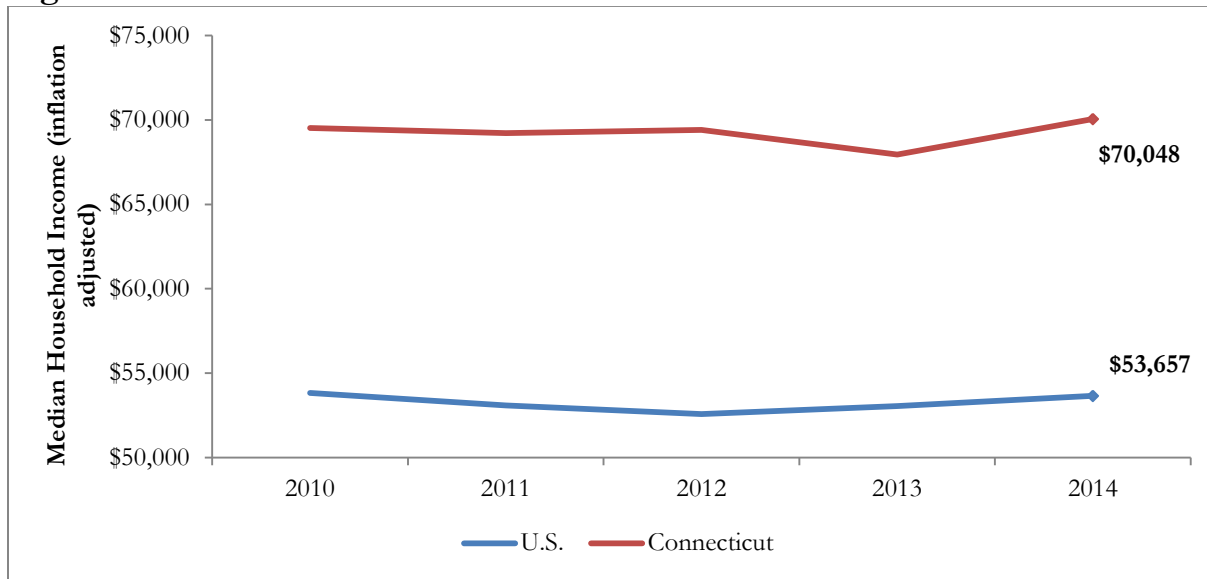
³ “White” refers to non-Hispanic white residents; Black and Hispanic residents are not mutually exclusive Census categories, i.e. some black residents may also be Hispanic.

⁴ “White” refers to non-Hispanic white residents; Black and Hispanic residents are not mutually exclusive Census categories, i.e. some black residents may also be Hispanic.

In contrast with the overall rise in poverty and child poverty, median household income has increased in both Connecticut and the Nation:

- Median Household Income in Connecticut did not change significantly from 2010 to 2014, but it rose significantly from \$67,944 in 2013 to \$70,048 in 2014.
- Median Household Income in the United States did fall significantly from 2010 to 2014, but rose significantly from \$53,059 in 2013 to \$53,657 in 2014.

Figure 3: Median Household Income Estimates in Connecticut and the Nation



Source: U.S. Census ACS Sept. 17, 2015 release analyzed by Connecticut Voices for Children. In 2014 the U.S. Census Poverty Threshold was \$24,008 for a family of four. Note: The U.S. Census Bureau publishes the prior four years of median household income estimates.

Table 4: Median Household Income Estimates for Connecticut and the Nation

Median Household Income (2014 dollars)	2010	2013	2014
Connecticut	\$69,511	\$67,944	\$70,048
United States	\$53,836	\$53,059	\$53,657

Source: U.S. Census ACS Sept. 17, 2015 release analyzed by Connecticut Voices for Children. In 2014 the U.S. Census Poverty Threshold was \$24,008 for a family of four. Note: The U.S. Census Bureau publishes the prior four years of median household income estimates.

Within Connecticut, poverty and median household income in cities and counties changed as follows:

- Median Household Income increased significantly in Connecticut and Stamford from 2013 to 2014; no other geography saw a significant change in Median Household Income.
- New London and Tolland Counties saw increases in the overall poverty rate from 2013 to 2014, and Windham County and Stamford saw decreases. No other geographies saw a significant change in the overall poverty rate
- New London County saw a significant increase in all children in poverty from 2013, while Windham County saw a significant decrease. No other geography saw a significant change in the child poverty rate.

Table 5: Poverty and Median Household Income Estimates in Connecticut Cities and Counties in 2014⁵

Geography	Residents with income less than Federal Poverty Level	Children under 18 under Federal Poverty Level	Median household income in 2014 dollars
Connecticut	10.8% (375,000)	14.9% (114,000)	\$70,048
COUNTIES			
Fairfield	8.9% (82,000)	11.5% (25,000)	\$85,925
Hartford	12.2% (107,000)	17.9% (34,000)	\$65,894
Litchfield	7.5% (14,000)	7.5% (3,000)	\$73,756
Middlesex	8.4% (13,000)	11.5% (4,000)	\$75,876
New Haven	13.1% (109,000)	18.3% (33,000)	\$60,391
New London	11.3% (30,000)	19.3% (11,000)	\$66,148
Tolland	7.3% (10,000)	5.5% (2,000)	\$78,786
Windham	8.7% (10,000)	11.9% (3,000)	\$59,195
CITIES			
Bridgeport	22.5% (32,000)	32.4% (12,000)	\$41,846
Danbury	11.5% (9,000)	17.0% (3,000)	\$69,394
Hartford	34.5% (41,000)	45.4% (14,000)	\$28,826
New Britain	26.1% (18,000)	35.0% (6,000)	\$40,082
New Haven	26.5% (32,000)	34.3% (10,000)	\$37,534
Norwalk	8.3% (7,000)	12.6% (2,000)	\$75,285
Stamford	8.6% (11,000)	10.3% (3,000)	\$88,686
Waterbury	25.8% (28,000)	36.5% (10,000)	\$37,246

Source: U.S. Census ACS Sept. 17, 2015 release analyzed by Connecticut Voices for Children. In 2014 the U.S. Census Poverty Threshold was \$24,008 for a family of four. Given the lack of significant change, data from 2013 was not included. Data were not analyzed for significance between geographies.

⁵ Single-year estimates are only available for geographies with populations greater than 65,000. Census estimates for smaller geographies (i.e. other towns in Connecticut) will be available in 3 and 5-year estimates that will be released later this year.

Data by Congressional District show:

- None of the Congressional Districts saw a significant change in Median Household Income or in either poverty indicator from 2013 to 2014.

Table 6: Poverty and Median Household Income Estimates in Connecticut Congressional Districts in 2014

Congressional District	Residents with income less than Federal Poverty Level	Children under 18 under Federal Poverty Level	Median household income in 2014 dollars
STATEWIDE	10.8% (375,000)	14.9% (114,000)	\$70,048
1 st District (Rep. Larson)	11.7% (82,000)	17.3% (26,000)	\$65,352
2 nd District (Rep. Courtney)	9.0% (60,000)	13.0% (18,000)	\$70,922
3 rd District (Rep. DeLauro)	11.8% (82,000)	16.2% (23,000)	\$61,574
4 th District (Rep. Himes)	9.0% (66,000)	11.4% (20,000)	\$88,279
5 th District (Rep. Esty)	12.2% (85,000)	17.0% (26,000)	\$67,929

Source: U.S. Census ACS Sept. 17, 2015 release analyzed by Connecticut Voices for Children. In 2014 the U.S. Census Poverty Threshold was \$24,008 for a family of four. The range is the estimate plus or minus the margin of error. Note: This data reflects Congressional district boundaries as of January 3, 2013 (the 113th Congress). Given the lack of significant change, data from 2013 was not included. Data were not analyzed for significance between geographies.

Guide to Using Census Data

Data Source. The United States Census Bureau released estimates from the American Community Survey (ACS), an annual survey of 3 million households that provides estimates on poverty, income, and health insurance in the United States, on September 17, 2015. Connecticut Voices for Children analyzes these data, which this year represent 2014 survey estimates, for significance and major trends.

Unless a change in Census estimates over time is statistically significant, it is not accurate to say, for example, that poverty rates have increased or declined. Unless specifically noted above, there were no statistically significant changes in Census estimates between 2014 data and other years. The numbers reported in the ACS survey are estimates because only a sample of the entire population is surveyed. For this reason, the Census Bureau publishes additional data that allow us to estimate the range of values within which the population’s actual poverty rate is likely to fall. This enables us to determine whether or not the change in an estimate from one time period to the next is large enough to conclude that a change in the population has occurred, or whether the change in the estimate may have been due to random chance. For example, in the field of opinion polling, the “margin of error” of a poll helps to assess whether there has been a significant change in polling results over time. **A change in Census estimates is called “statistically significant” if it is unlikely to have occurred by chance.** (This term describes the statistical evidence of change, not whether it is important or meaningful. Lack of change can also be meaningful.) Statistical significance tests were conducted for poverty and uninsured *rates*, rather than *numbers* of people in poverty or *numbers* uninsured.

Household Income. ACS data for median household income is comparable over time. Median income figures are in 2014 dollars (inflation adjusted), so they would not match estimates in previous years’ reports. Note that ACS survey respondents are asked about their income in the past 12 months, rather than the last calendar year, so responses may refer to 2013, 2014, or some combination of the two.

“Residents” refers to the “Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population,” or all U.S. civilians (not necessarily citizens) not residing in institutional group quarters facilities such as correctional institutions, juvenile facilities, skilled nursing facilities, and other long-term care living arrangements.

“All children under 18” refers to the portion of the Civilian Noninstitutionalized Population under the age of 18.

“Related children” refers to any child under the age of 18 who is related to the householder by birth, marriage, or adoption. This population excludes, for example, foster children or boarders.

Connecticut Voices’ use of ACS data is informed by the guidance of analysts at the Census Bureau, Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, and Coalition on Human Needs.